

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 are presented for consideration, with Claim 9 being independent.

Claim 9 has been amended and placed in independent form. In addition, Claims 2-7 have been amended to be consistent with the changes to Claim 9. Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been cancelled.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claim 9-11 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter. As noted above, Claim 9 has been amended to include the features of Claim 1.

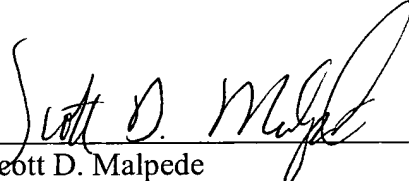
Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Jerman '579. In addition, Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Jerman and further in view of Shaw '866. In view of the cancellation of Claim 1, these rejections are deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn. It is further submitted that dependent Claims 2-7 are now allowed, as they depend from Claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/608,111

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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